

DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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INTERPRETIVE OPINION

Pursuant to §103-50, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), all buildings and facilities constructed by, or on behalf of the State or any county, shall conform to the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) and amendments. In accordance to HRS §103-50 and Chapter 11-217, Hawaii Administrative Rules, the Disability and Communication Access Board has authority to issue interpretive opinions to HRS §103-50 design standards.

Docket: **DCAB 2003-01:** During an alteration where it is technically infeasible to maintain a 48" clear space between 2 doors in a series can a sign be applied to one of the doors stating "this door shall remain locked in the open position during hours of operation?"

Summary: This interpretive opinion applies to alterations with two conditions: (1) compliance with the ADAAG is deemed technically infeasible, and (2) locking the door in the open position complies with applicable codes and regulations.

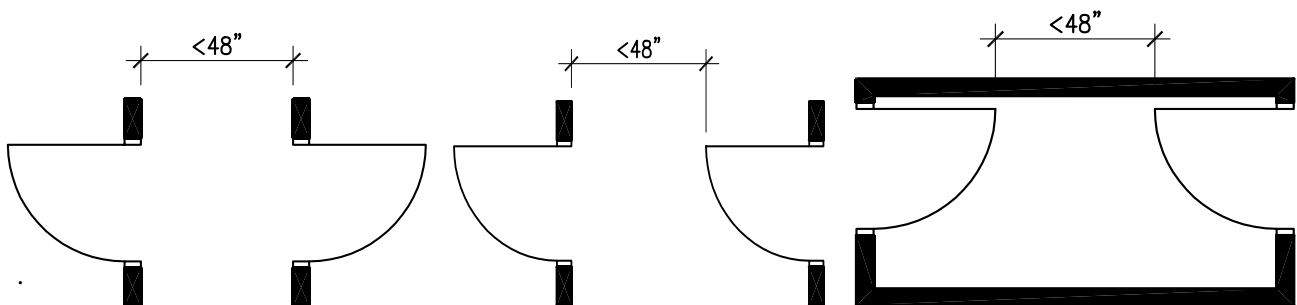
Per ADAAG 4.1.6(j) Exception, "technically infeasible means, with respect to an alteration of a building or a facility, that it has little likelihood of being accomplished because existing structural conditions would require removing or altering a load-bearing member which is an essential part of the structural frame; or because other existing physical or site constraints prohibit modification or additional elements, spaces, or features which are in full and strict compliance with the minimum requirements for new construction and which are necessary to provide accessibility."

Examples of possible applicable codes and regulation includes, but is not limited to, fire code and health regulations. Fire code may apply if the door locked in the open position is part of a fire rated corridor. Health regulations may apply if the door locked in the open position is an entry to a restroom.

Ruling: For buildings or facilities subject to HRS §103-50,

ADAAG 4.1.6(1)(j) Accessible Buildings: Alterations, ADAAG 4.13.7 Two Doors in Series

In an alteration where it is deemed to be technically infeasible to maintain a 48 inch clear space between two doors in a series, as illustrated below, a sign can be applied to one of the doors stating "this door shall remain locked in the open position during hours of operation," provided that applicable code(s) are not superceded



[Rul: 04/22] (Auth and Imp: HRS §103-50)

If you have any questions or comments regarding this ruling, please call us at 586-8121.

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